

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced his support today for a common-sense alternative to the House Democrats' 1,990-page health care bill. The Republican alternative would lower health care costs without raising taxes or expanding government.

"People want lower costs – not bigger government," said Buchanan. "This bill reduces health care costs without raising taxes, cutting Medicare for seniors or adding to the deficit."

The Democrats \$1.2 trillion health care bill, H.R. 3962 is financed in part by \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare and \$740 billion in new fees and taxes on individuals, families and businesses. The bill also opens the door to a government takeover of our nation's health care system.

"I stand with my constituents against a Washington takeover of health care," said Buchanan. "The bill I support would lower health care premiums for families and small business and keep health care decisions between patients and doctors."

The Republican alternative would increase access to quality health care by providing coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and allowing health policies to be sold across state lines to increase competition. It also would limit frivolous lawsuits and create incentives for small businesses to offer health care at lower prices.